

17 Sept 1986.

Henderson - Schools - Henderson High



Mr Mitchell being escorted to his new job, as a Maori elder, Miro Stephens, wipes a tear from her eye during the ceremony at Henderson High School yesterday.

17/9/86 Head U/F Henderson

Fond Farewell And Welcome For Principal

A group of Otara residents yesterday wished a tearful farewell to one of their community "treasures" as they escorted Mr Ian Mitchell to his new job as principal at Henderson High School.

Mr Mitchell, who has lived and worked in Otara for 16 years, was delivered to the school in a solemn Maori ceremony by a group of former pupils, community leaders and colleagues from his old school, Hillary College.

The Otara military youth group, the Legionaires, formed a guard of honour for Mr Mitchell as he walked into the school grounds.

In their turn, pupils and teachers at Henderson High School lined up outside the school hall to stage a welcome for their new head.

The MPs for Northern Maori, Dr Bruce Gregory, and Southern Maori, the Hon Whetu Tirikatene-Sullivan (both long-time friends of Mr Mitchell), the Mayor of Henderson, Mr Assid Corban, and other secondary school principals attended the welcome.

The principal of Hillary College, Mr Pat Heremaia, who headed the delegation from Otara, said his school wanted to show that Mr Mitchell was a special person.

Mr Mitchell, who was the curriculum development officer at Hillary College and speaks Samoan and Maori fluently, is a former secretary of the Citizens' Association for Racial Equality.

NZ Herald